

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A storage system comprising one or more supports and, associated with the supports, one or more sensors arranged to detect the presence of transponders associated with items to be stored on the supports, to read information from the transponders, and to transmit information read from the transponders to, for example, a data processing unit, wherein at least one of said sensors is arranged to receive signals from the transponders comprising a multi-bit magnetic tag, and wherein at least one of said supports includes an electronic character display.
2. (Original) A storage system according to claim 1, wherein at least one sensor is arranged to receive signals from a transponder comprising an RFID tag.
3. (cancelled) A storage system according to claim 1, wherein at least one sensor is arranged to receive signals from a transponder comprising a multi-bit magnetic tag.
4. (cancelled) A storage system according to Claim 3, wherein one or more of the supports includes an electronic character display.
5. (previously presented) A storage system according to Claim 1, wherein the supports comprise shelves.
6. (cancelled) An inventory control system including a storage system according to Claim 5, and a data processing unit arranged to receive information the sensor or sensors.
7. (currently amended) An inventory control system according to claim 126, wherein the data processing unit is a computer system programmed to maintain a database of information about individual items held on the supports for stock control purposes and the like.
8. (currently amended) An inventory control system according to claim 7, including software to

analyse ~~the a~~ level of stock of items on individual shelves and provide a signal indicative of ~~the a~~ requirement for replenishment of the items when ~~the a~~ number of items falls below a pre-determined threshold level.

9. (currently amended) An inventory control system according to Claim 8, ~~when dependent on claim 5,~~ including means for passing information to a shelf display so as to display the prices of shelved items and/or other information, and means for enabling price changes to be indicated substantially instantaneously when changes are made in the data processing unit.

10. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 9, including means for checking ~~the a~~ location and/or quantity of items at a given shelf location and means for providing an indication of misplaced items.

11. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 10, including means for providing an indication of the removal of large numbers of items ~~usually that may be sold singly or in small numbers from a shelf location.~~

12. (new) An inventory control system comprising a data processing unit; a storage system comprising one or more supports; and one or more sensors associated with the one or more supports and arranged to detect the presence of transponders associated with items to be stored on the one or more supports, wherein the one or more sensors read information from the transponders, and transmit information read from the transponders to the data processing unit, wherein at least one of the one or more sensors is arranged to receive signals from the transponders comprising a multi-bit magnetic tag, and wherein at least one of the one or more supports includes an electronic character display.